

Las Vegas bearpoppy

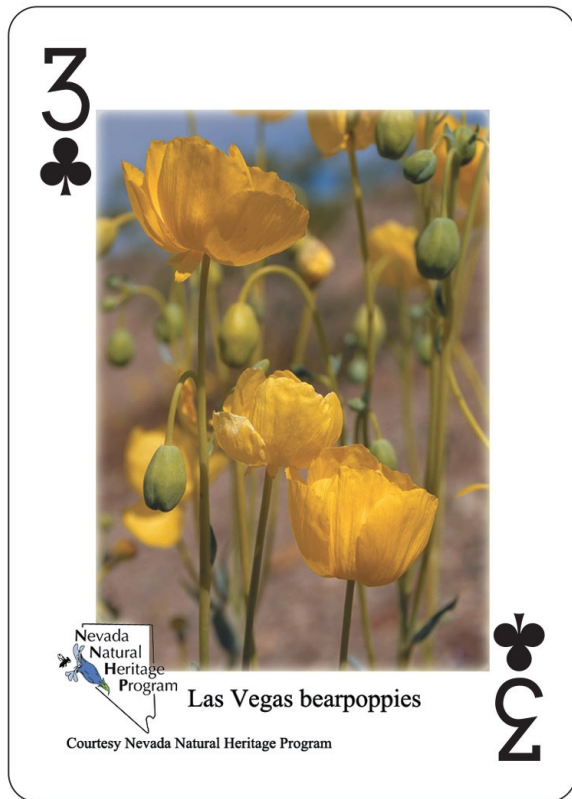
Arctomecon californica

Although "californica" is part of its scientific name, the only place in the world where Las Vegas bearpoppy has been found is from Las Vegas Valley eastward in Clark County, Nevada and adjacent northwestern Arizona.

Las Vegas bearpoppy was one of the first plant species discovered and named from present-day Nevada. But this was in 1844, twenty years before Nevada statehood, when the Las Vegas area was still part of the Mexican territory of Alta California.

Now protected by the State of Nevada, Las Vegas bearpoppy thrives in some of the harshest and driest soils in the Mojave Desert, where few other plants survive. The plants especially favor soils with high gypsum content.

The plants consist of one or more clusters of basal rosette leaves with a generally light blue or gray appearance. The leaves are generally wedge-shaped, with the end of each divided into several teeth and entirely covered with long hairs 5-15 mm in length, looking like a little bear paw. Flower stalks rise 1-2 feet above the leaves, with nodding buds that open into bright yellow flowers with petals 1-2 inches long. Once established, plants survive for a few years, and then remain dormant as seeds in the soil until the next wet winter.



For more information on Nevada's Natural Heritage please visit:

<http://heritage.nv.gov/>

